chapter 21

Devil's Puppet

...
SATO-RU... YOU...
DON'T YOU SEEM TO BE UPSET?
OF COURSE! DO YOU THINK I WOULD NOT BE UPSET ABOUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED? HOW ABOUT YOU YOURSELF?
YEAH...
WHY WON'T YOU SAY ANYTHING TO ME..?
LIKE... MAKOTO IS IN DANGER...

WHY WERE YOU SO SURE THAT MY POWER WOULD NOT BE NEEDED IN THAT BATTLE?
ALTHOUGH YOU SURELY FELT THAT THERE WAS A DANGER, UNTIL YOU HAD TO USE THE SWORD YOU'VE BEEN KEEPING.
...
SOGETSU
I KNOW, I'M SORRY.
BUT... I THOUGHT I SHOULDN'T INVOLVE YOU.
AS LONG AS I'M IN ONMYODO, RIGHT?
YEAH ...

...
SO THAT IS IT.
AS LONG AS I AM THE HEAD OF TAKA-MURA FAMILY,
I MUST ALWAYS HONOUR THIS FAMILY NAME...
EVEN IF IN DOING SO, MY FEELINGS ARE FORSAKEN.
I.. SOME-TIMES WONDER ...
DOES NAME EXIST BECAUSE OF HU-MAN..
OR HUMAN EXIST BECAUSE OF NAME?
IN FACT... WHAT CAN A PERSON BEARING A RESPECTFUL NAME DO FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST?
—
—

I KEEP ASKING WHEN I WILL GET THE ANSWER ...
NN UNH ...
SHO ?
YOU'RE AWAKE?

TOKO...? HOW COME YOU'RE HERE..?
I. HOW COME?
COUGH
DON'T FORCE YOURSELF. YOUR WOUNDS AREN'T FULLY HEALED YET.
AH! MAKOTO!
UGH!
DON'T! DON'T GET UP SO SUDDENLY!
SEEMS LIKE THEY CAST A SPELL ON YOU TOO.. MY HEALING ALONE WON'T BE GOOD.

YOU HAVE A FEVER BECAUSE OF YOUR WOUNDS.
COME ON, DON'T DO ANYTHING JUST YET!
...I...
WHAT?

MA-KO-TO...
IF HE'S NOT SAVED ...
WHAT IS IT?! WITH THIS KIND OF BODY, WHAT CAN YOU DO?!
THIS KIND OF WOUND ISN'T A PROBLEM ...
SHO!
SHUT UP!

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?!
I... I COULDN T DO ANYTHING WHEN MAKOTO... WAS TAKEN AWAY!
I CAN'T BEAR ALL THIS REGRET..!
BECAUSE I'M NOT YOU..
IF YOU DON'T EXPLAIN, HOW WOULD I KNOW?
THAT GUY..
I INDEED DON'T GET ANY OF IT
DAMN HIM!
TSUKASA KUNAI SAID, MAKOTO IS A VALUABLE OBJECT..!

TOKO ..?
WHAT DO YOU ALL CONSIDER ME AS?
DO YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL WHEN I WAS TOLD ABOUT THIS INCIDENT?
I'VE ALWAYS SAID, ASK ME TO STRATEGISE... MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN HELP WITH—
I SAID THIS MANY TIMES, DIDN'T I?
BUT TRY TO SEE ...

ARE YOU ALL... WHY DON'T YOU ALL UNDER-STAND MY FEELING?
THE ONES WHO DON'T GET IT...

...
EVEN THOUGH WE WERE ALL THERE...
I DID NOT EXPECT, THEY MANAGED TO SEIZE MAKOTO ...
FORGIVE US...
QUIT IT!
I AM THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE BLAMED
I WAS THE CLOSEST TO MAKOTO, BUT I COULD NOT PROTECT HIM
THAT WOMAN...
THE WAY SHE DID ALL OF THIS, IS AS THOUGH SHE HAD KNOWN OUR POWER...

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...
I SHOULD HAVE FOUND OUT WHO SHE IS FIRST...
BEFORE EVERY-THING TURNS INTO REGRET...
FIRST THING FIRST —
NOW WE HAVE TO FIND MAKOTO IMME-DIATELY
WE DO, BUT...
AFTER THAT INCIDENT, WE HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR HIM BUT IT IS STRANGE.. WE ARE NOT ABLE TO FEEL HIS PRESENCE. IT COULD NOT BE THAT MAKOTO...
RAN!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
BECAUSE...
IF MAKOTO IS STILL IN THIS WORLD, WE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN WHERE HE IS!

BOTH OF YOU, STAY CALM!
I AM SURE THAT MAKOTO IS SAFE!
BECAUSE FOR THEM, MAKOTO IS A TOOL TO GET THE POWER...
HE IS A PRECIOUS PRIEST...
A... ALRIGHT...
I THINK...
HE IS INSIDE ANOTHER STRONGLY ENCLOSED WORLD.
MASTER HIGYOKU...
THEIR POWER IS NOT ORDINARY.
ABOVE THE POWER OF THE GUARDIAN TRIBE, OR EVEN HIGHER.
INDEED...
EVEN SO... WE MUST BE ABLE TO GET MAKOTO BACK.

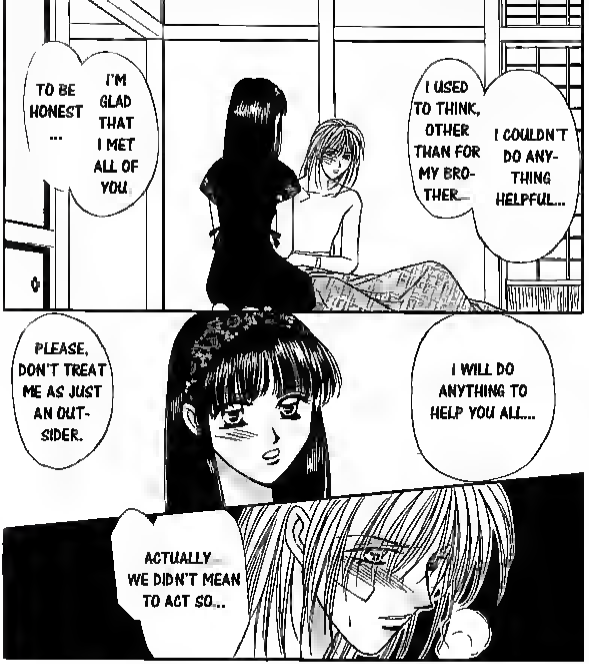
RE-
GARD-
LESS OF
HOW IT
MAY
BE...
HEE
HEE
...
IF I PUT
THIS DEVIL
FRUIT INTO
YOUR BODY,
YOU WILL
BE OUR
PUPPET.

YOU WILL BE MOVED BY THE ARTIFICIAL MEMORY WE CREATED...
OF YOUR OWN FREE WILL, YOU WILL GIVE THE POWER OF THOSE FRUITS TO US...
SUCH A SWEET PUPPET

AH!
HOW CAN THIS BE..?
WHY..? WHAT IS WRONG..?
HOW TROU-BLE-SOME ..!
YOU CANNOT ACCEPT SOMETHING THAT IS NOT ACCORDING TO YOUR HEART
NO WON-DER... THE POWER OF THAT OTHER PERSON ...

I AM NOT A HUMAN WHO CAN DESTROY THIS POWER.
THERE IS NO OTHER CHOICE, I HAVE TO BORROW THAT MAN'S POWER.

I'M SO SORRY ..
I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE COMPOSED IN DEALING WITH THIS ...
I EXAG-GERA-TED IT, DIDN'T I..?
NO


I'M GLAD THAT I MET ALL OF YOU
TO BE HONEST ...
I USED TO THINK, OTHER THAN FOR MY BROTHER...
I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING HELPFUL...
PLEASE, DON'T TREAT ME AS JUST AN OUTSIDER.
I WILL DO ANYTHING TO HELP YOU ALL...
ACTUALLY... WE DIDN'T MEAN TO ACT SO...

SHO...?
I'M NOT SURE I CAN PROTECT TWO PEOPLE WHEN MY POWER WEAKENS DURING NEW MOON...
TWO...? INCLUDING ME?
YEAH ...

SHO !
...
1
WHATEVER YOUR REASON TO BE WITH US IS..
TO ME, YOU'RE ONE WHOM I MUST PROTECT
SO IT'S IT...
BUT I DON'T WANT TO JUST BE PROTECTED ..
I WILL BE FINE... I'M GETTING STRONGER.
I WON'T BOTHER YOU
TOKO ...

NOW... THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO HEAL YOUR WOUNDS...
COME, LIE DOWN AGAIN.
UNH ...
I WANT TO TAKE NEW BANDAGE AND THE MEDICA-TION.
YOU JUST REST FIRST, OKAY?
TOKO ...
YES?
I SNAPPED AT YOU, JUST NOW...
SOR-RY..
NEVER MIND

WE WILL DEFINITELY BE ABLE TO SAVE MAKOTO!
DON'T FORGET THAT HE HAS ALL OF YOU...
YEAH ...
UNH ... UH ...
DARN! I HATE THIS!
ONLY BECAUSE OF THESE WOUNDS!
MAKOTO ..

JUST WAIT, MAKOTO..!
I WILL SURELY SAVE YOU!
HUH ... SO ONLY THIS ...

*knock knock...
TSU-KASA?
ARE YOU READY?
YEAH ... ARE YOU?
YES.. ALL READY!
IT HAS BEEN LONG SINCE WE WENT HOME, ISN T IT?
YEAH ...
BUT THERE'S ONLY AN EMPTY HOUSE THERE...
YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT I LIKE THAT HOUSE.
OH YEAH

OH RIGHT ... MAKO-TO...
WHAT IS IT?
HERE ... THIS IS YOURS, ISN'T THIS?
..
NO, IT ISN'T ..
I DON'T HAVE SUCH THING.
OH...
HE REALLY DOESN'T REMEMBER.
BUT STRANGE... I HAVE TO ACT AS SHO'S REPLACEMENT!

OH WELL...
TSU-KA-SA! HURRY UP! OR ELSE WE WILL MISS THE TRAIN!
OKAY!
I HAVE TO KEEP ON THIS ACT...
FOR THE SAKE OF GETTING THE POWER OF THE FRUIT OF THE TIME AXIS...
chapter 21 - END -

Translation : oxynclaire
Cleaning : oxynclaire
Typesetting : oxynclaire
QC : oxynclaire
RAW : Fathskie
(FathskieScans)